

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A personal information providing system for providing personal information on a user through the Internet, comprising:

5 a provider for providing the personal information on the user only to one or more requesters with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.

2. A personal information providing system, comprising a user terminal and a personal information server, for providing personal
10 information on a user through the Internet, wherein

said user terminal comprises:

personal information transmission means for transmitting the personal information on the user to the personal information server;

15 electronic mail transmission means for allowing said user to create and transmit an electronic mail;

recipient information generation means for transmitting to the personal information server recipient information on a recipient based on the electronic mail transmitted from said user;

20 electronic mail reception means for allowing said user to receive the electronic mail; and

personal information acquisition means for allowing a recipient who has been received an electronic mail to request personal information on a sender of the electronic mail, for acquiring the personal information on the sender from said personal information server, and for displaying the
25 acquired personal information, and wherein

said personal information server comprises:

personal information registration means for receiving the personal

information on said user from said user terminal, and for registering the received personal information with a personal information file;

empowering means for receiving recipient information from said user terminal and for empowering the recipient who is described in said

5 recipient information to refer to the personal information on said user; and
personal information providing means for transmitting the personal information on said user to said recipient if said recipient requesting the personal information on said user is empowered to refer to the personal information on said user.

10 3. A personal information providing system according to claim 2,
wherein

said user terminal further comprises means for generating
cancellation information describing information on a person being forbidden,
and for transmitting the generated cancellation information to said personal
15 information server;

said personal information server further comprises means for
receiving said cancellation information, and for canceling power of a person
described in said cancellation information to refer to the personal
information on said user.

20 4. The personal information providing system according to claim 2,
wherein

said recipient information generation means is provided with a
exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient
for whom recipient information shall not be generated, and wherein

25 said recipient information means does not generate said recipient
information if the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted
electronic mail is included in said exclusion file.

5. The personal information providing method for providing personal information on a user through the Internet, comprising a step of:

providing the personal information data on the user only to one or more requesters with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.

5 6. A personal information providing method for providing personal information on a user through the Internet, comprising the steps of:

making the user register the personal information with a personal information server;

10 transmitting an electronic mail created by said user to a recipient, generating recipient information describing information on the recipient based on said transmitted electronic mail,

transmitting the generated recipient information to said personal information server;

15 making said personal information server receive said recipient information, and empower the recipient described in said recipient information to refer to the personal information on said user;

making the recipient of the electronic mail transmitted from said user receive said electronic mail;

20 making said recipient request said personal information server to transmit the personal information on said user;

making said personal information server examine whether said recipient is empowered to refer to the personal information on said user, and transmit the personal information on said user to the recipient if the recipient is empowered; and

25 making said recipient refer to the received personal information on said user.

7. The personal information providing method according to claim 6,

further comprising a step of:

making said personal information server cancel power of a person to refer to the personal information on said user in response to a cancellation instruction from said user.

- 5 8. The personal information providing method according to claim 6, further comprising a step of:

failing to generate said recipient information if the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail is included in an exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient for whom

- 10 recipient information shall not be generated.